

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

November 4, 2020

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Room 10300
Washington, D.C. 20260-1000

Dear Mr. DeJoy:

We write with grave concerns that the Postal Service failed to comply with a court order to have inspectors from the Postal Service or the Office of Inspector General “sweep” specific Postal Service facilities to ensure no election ballots were improperly delayed before those districts’ evening deadlines. We are concerned about the repercussions of your actions yesterday in defying the Court order and demand that you now focus all available Postal Service efforts and attention on ensuring that all mail-in ballots are immediately identified and delivered to their respective destinations. Our democracy and the voices of our citizens are at stake.

As you are aware, a U.S. District Court yesterday ordered the Postal Service to perform these “sweeps” of postal facilities in 12 postal districts spanning 15 states from 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.¹ The order stemmed from operational changes initiated by you and condoned by the Postal Service Board of Governors—changes that significantly delayed election mail in swing states and in historically Democratic areas.² But at the eleventh hour, you refused to follow the Court’s order, despite assurances provided by the Postal Service to Oversight and Reform Committee

¹ *Vote Forward, et al. v. Louis DeJoy and the United States Postal Service*, (1:20-cv-02405) (Doc. 73) (Nov. 3, 2020) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/Judge%20Sullivan%27s%20Minute%20Order%20on%20USPS%20Sweeps.pdf>).

² *Swing-state Voters Face Major Mail Delays in Returning Ballots on Time, USPS Data Shows*, Washington Post (Oct. 30, 2020) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/10/30/postal-service-absentee-ballots-2020-election/); *USPS Investigates Undelivered Miami Ballots*, Politico (Oct. 31, 2020) (online at www.politico.com/states/florida/story/2020/10/31/usps-investigating-undelivered-miami-mail-ballots-1333001); *There’s Some Troubling New Data About Slowdowns in Election Mail*, Slate (Oct. 29, 2020) (online at <https://slate.com/business/2020/10/usps-slowdowns-whats-happening-with-election-mail-in-pennsylvania-michigan-and-elsewhere.html>).

staff on election day that the Postal Service “had no intention of acting inconsistently with the Judge’s expectations.”³

Despite these serious concerns about Postal Service delays and the inability or unwillingness to deliver ballots in a timely manner, you repeatedly obstructed congressional oversight by preventing Members of Congress from visiting postal facilities to conduct inspections to ensure fair and appropriate ballot delivery.⁴ Chairman Connolly and other Members of Congress made repeated requests to visit postal facilities to conduct that oversight, and you denied them access without valid legal justification and in contravention of legal guidance provided by the Office of Special Counsel.⁵

Your actions and efforts to ignore the constitutional authority of Congress and the judicial branch are dangerous, unconscionable, and have undermined the nonpartisan reputation of our nation’s most trusted federal agency.

We demand that you immediately focus all available Postal Service efforts on delivering ballots. You should have had this focus for months, and you should continue this focus until every ballot has been delivered.

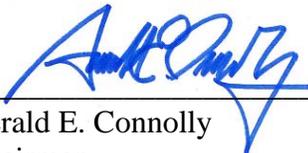
The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

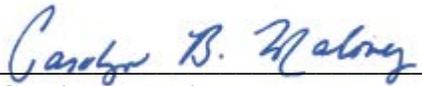
³ *USPS Disregards Court Order to Conduct Sweeps in 12 Postal Districts After More Than 300,000 Ballots Can’t Be Traced*, Washington Post (Nov. 3, 2020) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/11/03/election-ballot-delays-usps/); Email from USPS staff to Committee on Oversight and Reform Staff (Nov. 3, 2020).

⁴ *Several Lawmakers Denied Access to Postal Facilities*, Wall Street Journal (Oct. 20, 2020) (online at www.wsj.com/articles/several-lawmakers-denied-access-to-postal-facilities-11603208771).

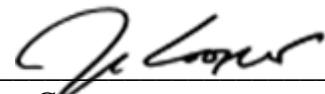
⁵ Letter from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, United States Postal Service (Oct. 13, 2020) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2020-10-13.GEC%20to%20DeJoy%20USPS%20Postmaster%20General%20Site%20Visit.pdf>); Letter from Sheila T. Meyers, United States Postal Service, to Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations (Oct. 20, 2020) (online at https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/USPS%20Response%20to%20Chair%20Connolly_102020.pdf); Letter from Ana Galindo-Marrone, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, to Chairwoman Carolyn D. Maloney and Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Reform (Oct. 13, 2020) (online at https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/OSC%20Hatch%20Act%20Letter_October%202020.pdf); Letter from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, United States Postal Service (Oct. 22, 2020) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2020-10-22.GEC%20to%20DeJoy%20USPS%20Postmaster%20General%20Site.pdf>); Letter from Sheila T. Meyers, United States Postal Service, to Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations (Oct. 28, 2020) (online at https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/USPS%20Response%20to%20Chair%20Connolly--Merrifield%20facility%20tour_102820.pdf).

Sincerely,

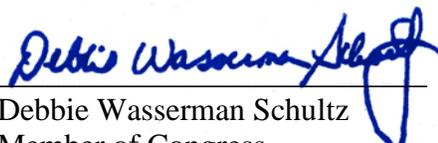

Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations


Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform


Stephen F. Lynch
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security


Jim Cooper
Member of Congress


Jamie Raskin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable James R. Comer Jr., Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jody B. Hice, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations.